

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUSAKA 03072 311339Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 HA-05
/090 W

-----043754 311347Z /42

O P 311300Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9154
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY GABORONE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 3072

NAIROBI PLEASE PASS TO AMBASSADOR YOUNG AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY
MOOSE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG PDEV WA SF
SUBJ: NAMIBIA: SWAPO VERSION OF CLASH ALONG CAPRIVI STRIP-
ZAMBIA BORDER

1. MISHEK MUYONGO MORNING AUGUST 31 TOLD CHARGE THAT SWAPO
WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR INITIATING THE CLASH WITH SOUTH AFRICA
ON AUGUST 23. HE SAID SWAPO HAD CAPTURED DOCUMENTS WHICH
INDICATED SOUTH AFRICAN PLANNED TO ATTACK SWAPO POSITIONS
WITHIN ZAMBIA. SOUTH AFRICAN ATTACKS WERE TO HAVE TAKEN PLACE
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ON AUGUST 26 AND INCLUDED SWAPO'S MAIN CAMP AT SENANGA. WITH
THIS INFORMATION IN HAND SWAPO HAD NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO TAKE
PREEMPTIVE ACTION.

2. MUYONGO DESCRIBED SOUTH AFRICAN MILITARY ACTION INSIDE
ZAMBIA AS INEFFECTIVE. GROUND FORCES HAD PENETRATED UP TO 50
KILOMETERS BUT HAD NOT BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN CAPTURING OR KILLING

SWAPO CADRE. SOUTH AFRICAN AIR ATTACKS TOOK PLACE BUT WERE IN MOST INSTANCES DIRECTED AGAINST ABANDONED SWAPO BASES. THIS INDICATED SOUTH AFRICAN INFORMATION WAS OUT OF DATE. AIR ATTACKS ALSO WERE MADE AGAINST ZAMBIAN MILITARY INSTALLATIONS IN THE BELIEF THAT THEY WERE SWAPO.

3. COMMENT: THIS IS THE FIRST TIME WE HAVE HAD SWAPO ADMIT RESPONSIBILITY FOR INITIATING THE FLARE UP WITH SOUTH AFRICA. WE HAVE BELIEVED ALL ALONG THAT THIS WAS TRUE; HOWEVER, WE ARE DOUBTFUL THAT A WELL INFORMED SWAPO PREEMPTED THE SOUTH AFRICANS. THIS EXPLANATION SEEMS A BIT TOO PAT. WE ARE ALSO SUSPICIOUS OF MUYONGO'S ASSESSMENT AS TO THE INEFFECTIVENESS OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN INCURSION INTO ZAMBIA.
CLINGERMAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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